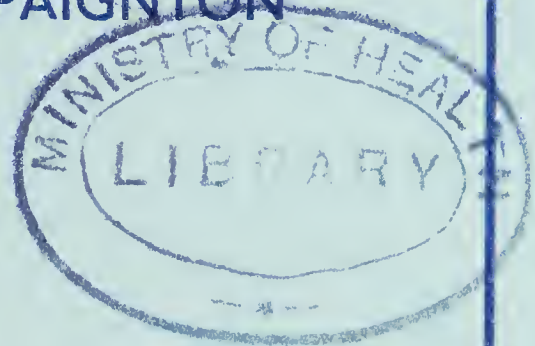




URBAN DISTRICT OF PAIGNTON



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for 1953

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
OLDWAY, PAIGNTON

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1953 presented in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

At the end of November Dr. Dick relinquished, on account of ill-health, his position as Medical Officer of Health and the appointment of his successor was pending at the end of the year. Having served in the first World War, Dr. Dick came to Paignton just after the outbreak of the second War, during which the emergency work of civil defence and the multifarious duties of a busy reception area crowded in upon the health department ; while the subsequent uneasy post-war years formed the remainder of his tenure. But throughout these abnormal times, the public health of Paignton was maintained satisfactorily, and he could report that the last full year of his service was the healthiest of the preceding decade. The quiet maintenance of health, however, does not make notable headlines, and is apt to be taken for granted ; but it is of supreme importance, and of Dr. Dick's work it may well be said that " he builded better than he knew."

The year under review has been healthy, apart from the biennial epidemic of measles which occurred during the spring : and the vital statistics show nothing significant upon which it is necessary to comment.

In December, Paignton became part of a declared area under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1953, in which only Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested milk may be sold : and this is a welcome provision in ensuring safer milk.

Further progress has again been made in housing, details of which are given by your Chief Sanitary Inspector, who also reports fully on general sanitary inspection and other associated matters.

During the interval between Dr. Dick's retirement and the date on which his successor takes up his duties, I have been acting as your Medical Officer ; and it is with appreciation that I acknowledge both the helpful co-operation of your other Chief Officers and the loyal and considerable assistance of the staff of your Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. V. A. SIMPSON

STAFF

MEDICAL

ANDREW DICK, M.D. (State Med.), D.P.H. (Glas. Univ.)
Medical Officer of Health.

(also Medical Officer of Health Brixham U.D.C. and Borough
of Dartmouth, and Assistant County Medical Officer, Devon
County Council).

Resigned 30th November, 1953. Appointment pending.

SANITARY

S. H. BONE, Cert. S.I.B., Meat Cert., M.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Meat Inspector.

Housing Officer, Explosives and Petroleum Officer.

W. D. MUGFORD, Cert. S.I.B., Meat Cert., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Meat Inspector.

F. C. BIDGOOD, Cert. S.I.B., Meat Cert., M.S.I.A.

Meat Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

CLERICAL

H. B. BOND

MISS N. HART

MISS R. M. HARRIS

OTHER

C. J. TURPIN, Disinfector.

A. L. DOHERTY, Rodent Operator.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1—

Area (Acres)	5,188
Area of pleasure grounds—349.024 acres	
Area of foreshore 151.300 acres	
Coastline 4.58 miles, of which 3.66 miles of foreshore are owned by the Council.	
Population—(Census, 1931)	18,414
Population—(Census, 1951)	25,369
Registrar-General's estimated resident population, 1953 (mid-year)	25,240
Number of inhabited houses, 1953	8,463
Rateable value, 31st December, 1953	£263,665
Estimated sum represented by Penny Rate, 1953/54	£1,043

2—

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR
1953

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	119	130	249
Legitimate	117	121	238
Illegitimate	2	9	11
Stillbirths	6	0	6
Legitimate	5	0	5
Illegitimate	1	0	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			9.87
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			0.44
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births)			42.31
Area Comparability Factor—Births			1.09
Corrected Birth Rate			10.76
	Male	Female	Total
Deaths	191	229	420
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			16.64
Area Comparability Factor—Deaths			0.64
Corrected Death Rate			10.65
	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	3	3	6
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age :			
All infants per 1,000 live births			24.10
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			24.10
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			73
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)			3
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			0

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1953

					Male	Female
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	.....	.....	.....	2	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	.....	.....	.....	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	.....	.....	.....	0	2
4	Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	0	0
5	Whooping cough	.....	.....	.....	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	.....	.....	.....	0	0
7	Acute poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	1	1
8	Measles	.....	.....	.....	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	.....	.....	.....	1	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	.....	.....	.....	8	7
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.....	.....	.....	3	1
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	.....	.....	.....	0	9
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	.....	.....	.....	0	3
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	.....	.....	.....	16	23
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	.....	.....	.....	0	3
16	Diabetes	.....	.....	.....	1	3
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	.....	.....	.....	25	48
18	Coronary disease, angina	.....	.....	.....	31	19
19	Hypertension with heart disease	.....	.....	.....	4	2
20	Other heart disease	.....	.....	.....	38	55
21	Other circulatory disease	.....	.....	.....	6	7
22	Influenza	.....	.....	.....	1	6
23	Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	6	7
24	Bronchitis	.....	.....	.....	10	5
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	.....	.....	.....	3	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	.....	.....	.....	4	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	.....	.....	.....	2	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	.....	.....	.....	2	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	.....	.....	.....	2	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	.....	.....	.....	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	.....	.....	.....	1	3
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.....	.....	.....	14	14
33	Motor vehicle accidents	.....	.....	.....	1	0
34	All other accidents	.....	.....	.....	3	6
35	Suicide	.....	.....	.....	6	0
36	Homicide and operations of war	.....	.....	.....	0	0
All causes					191	229

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Staff

Full particulars of the staff, together with their qualifications and duties, are given at the beginning of this report.

At the end of November Dr. A. Dick relinquished his appointment as your Medical Officer of Health, and the appointment of his successor was not made until early in 1954.

There were no other changes in staff.

Committees

The Committees which are concerned with matters of Public Health are

Public Health Committee.

Housing Committee.

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) has a laboratory for the area at 7 Dix's Field, Exeter (Tel. Exeter 54959), and samples of milk, water, ice cream and shellfish have been submitted for bacteriological examination.

There is also a laboratory at the Torbay Hospital, Torquay, to which specimens are sent for clinical pathology and bacteriology by private practitioners.

Ambulance Services

This service is under the general direction of the County Medical Officer (Ambulance Section), "Ivybank," 45 St. David's Hill, Exeter (Tel. No. Exeter 4051). Paignton possesses one Ambulance Station out of the 33 Stations and Posts in the Administrative County. The Station is situated at Mill Yard, Littlegate Road, Paignton (Tel. No. Paignton 57602 by day, and Paignton 59922 by night). There are four full-time drivers and three Ambulances. The local administration of the Station and the executive work are carried out by the Paignton St. John Ambulance and Nursing Brigade under an agency agreement with the Devon County Council.

For infectious disease (other than smallpox) ambulance arrangements are made by the Torquay Isolation Hospital (Torquay 63276) for cases entering the Hospital from the Paignton area.

Hospital Car Service

The Hospital Car Service (organised by the S.J.A.B., B.R.C.S. and W.V.S.) operates under an agency agreement with the Devon County Council for sitting cases.

Nursing in the Home

This service is provided by the Health Authority (Devon County Council), the following Nurses carrying out their duties in the Paignton District :

Q.N.M.—Miss Smith, “ Longridge,” Shorton Road, Paignton.
Tel. No. 82811.

Q.D.N.—Miss Wolland, 23 Hillside Road, Paignton.
Tel. No. 57632.

D.N.M.—Nurse Clarke, 4a Woodland Park, Paignton.
Tel. No. 59586.

D.N.M.—Nurse Hill, 6 Oyster Bend, Three Beaches, Paignton.
Tel. No. 57134.

F.T.M.—Nurse Harwood, “ Sunridge,” Dunstone Park,
Paignton. Tel. No. 58158.

Q.N.M.—Queen’s Nurse Midwife.

Q.D.N.—Queen’s District Nurse.

D.N.M.—District Nurse Midwife.

F.T.M.—Full-time Midwife.

Health Visitors

There are two for the District, who combine school medical duties with health visiting, and are on the staff of the County Medical Officer.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

Central Clinic, Midvale Road—The Central School Clinic and Dental Clinic, operated by the Devon County Council, at Midvale Road, for school children and expectant mothers, continued during the year. Part of this Clinic is equipped as a Cleansing Clinic and is shared by the Council and the Devon County Council. Treatment is given for Impetigo and verminous conditions, including Scabies.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Two Infant Welfare Centres are held, one at the Central Clinic, Midvale Road, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and the other at the Baptist Church Schoolroom, Preston, on Wednesday afternoons.

Hospitals

The Paignton and District Hospital, situated at Church Street, Paignton (Tel. No. 57425) and the Convalescent Hospital situated at King’s Ash, Paignton, are administered by the Regional Hospital Board.

Nurseries

There are two Nurseries in the District. One, a Resident Nursery, is run privately by Miss Hooper, and situated at 5 Roundham Road, Paignton (Tel. No. 57672). The second Nursery is a Day Nursery, situated at the rear of Lower Polsham Road, and is administered by the Paignton Council of Social Service. The Superintendent is Miss J. Munn.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948/51

Section 47 of the Act of 1948, as amended, relates to the removal to suitable premises of persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions ; and are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons proper care or attention.

It was not necessary to take action under this section during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1—WATER SUPPLY

The following details of sources of supply and figures have kindly been furnished by the Water Engineer, Mr. J. C. Peters, A.I.W.E., A.I.Struct.E.

- (i) Whether the water supply of the area and its several parts has been satisfactory

(a) in quality.

(b) in quantity.

(a) Throughout the year the quality of the water on the whole has been maintained at a highly satisfactory standard.

(b) The quantity of water available at Holne has been ample for all purposes. The lowest level recorded of the impounding reservoir at Holne, which has a capacity of 190 million gallons, was 47ft. 11ins. (i.e. 6ft. 1in. below the Top Water Level).

In this year from March to September inclusive, advantage was taken of the 1952 Water Order which permitted additional water to be abstracted from the River Swincombe. This accounted for the high level maintained in the Holne Reservoir.

The pumping plant at Great Parks was brought into operation for the first time this year in order to augment the supply to Beacon Hill Service Reservoir. Due to this, it was not necessary to impose any restriction on the use of water. During the summer months $9\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons were pumped from this source.

- (ii) Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply, if so, how many and the results obtained : the results of any chemical analyses.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations have been made both of the raw and treated water. The whole of the supply is passed through pressure filters and the naturally acid water is treated with hydrate of lime and subsequently sterilised by the application of gaseous chlorine.

During the summer, as in past years, the peak demands have meant a considerable strain on the treatment plant which caused at odd periods alterations in the usual analysis. However, a new chlorinating and neutralization plant now being installed will remedy such conditions.

Bacteriological and Chemical Analyses of the raw water are as follows :

Bacteriological

25 samples were taken, of which 20 fell into Class I of the Ministry of Health's Classification for piped supplies, 1 in Class II and 4 in Class IV.

Chemical Analysis of the Raw Water

Messrs. Tickle and Reynolds, 83 and 84 Queen Street, Exeter.
Sample of raw water from Moorland Catchment Area.

Characters.

Colour—Yellow-Green Tint. Turbidity—Very slightly turbid.
Taste—Natural. Odour—None. Suspended matters—Trace of sand and humus of vegetation diatoms.

Analysis (parts per hundred thousand).

Chlorine present as Chlorides	.....	.....	.....	0.7
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	.....	.....	.....	0
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	.....	.....	.....	0
Phosphates	.....	.....	.....	0
Total hardness equivalent to Calcium Carbonate	.....			3.2
Permanent Hardness (not altered by boiling)	.....			3.0
Temporary Hardness (annulled by boiling)	.....			0.2
Saline Ammonia	.....	.....	.....	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	.....	.....	.....	0.0046
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	.....	.....		0.14
Lead	.....	.....	.....	0
Copper	.....	.....	.....	0
Zinc	.....	.....	.....	0
Iron in solution	.....	.....	.....	0
Iron in sedimentary form	.....	.....	.....	0
Manganese	.....	.....	.....	0
Total solid constituents	.....	.....	.....	5
Organic matter observed in igniting the solid constituents	.....	.....	.....	Trace
Hydrogen Ion Concentration equivalent to pH	.....			5.6

Bacteriological Examination of the Raw Water

Nature of Sample—Moorland Catchment Area.

River—Swincombe Intake Works.

Report.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, McConkey

2 days, 37° C. 0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli 0 per 100 ml.

Remarks.

This sample is equivalent in standard to a Class 1 piped supply and is therefore very satisfactory.

Nature of Sample—Moorland Catchment Area.

Outlet from turbine Holne Water Works.

Report.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, McConkey

2 days, 37° C. 8 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli 0 per 100 ml.

Remarks.

This supply is equivalent in standard to a Class 3 piped supply.

Nature of Sample—Moorland Catchment Area.

Collecting tank below filters Holne Water Works. Filtered.

Report.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, McConkey

2 days, 37° C. 0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli 0 per 100 ml.

Remarks.

This sample is equivalent in standard to a Class I piped supply and is therefore very satisfactory.

Chemical Analysis of Treated Water

Messrs. Tickle and Reynolds, 83 and 84 Queen Street, Exeter.

Sample of water from Inlet to St. Mary's Reservoir. Water chlorinated and treated with hydrate of lime.

Characters.

Colour—Yellow-green tint. Turbidity—Clear. Taste—Natural.

Odour—None. Suspended matter—None.

Analysis (parts per hundred thousand).

Chlorine present as Chlorides	.....	.....	.....	0.8
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	.....	.....	.....	0
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	.....	.....	.....	0
Phosphates	.....	.....	.....	0
Total Hardness equivalent to Calcium Carbonate	.....			3.4
Temporary Hardness (annulled by boiling)	.....			0.5
Permanent Hardness (not altered by boiling)	.....			2.9
Saline Ammonia	.....	.....	.....	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	.....	.....	.....	0.0020
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	.....	.....		0.105
Lead	.....	.....	.....	0
Copper	.....	.....	.....	0
Zinc	.....	.....	.....	0
Iron in solution	.....	.....	.....	0
Iron in sedimentary form	.....	.....	.....	0
Manganese	.....	.....	.....	0
Total solid constituents	.....	.....	.....	5.5
Organic matter observed in igniting the solid constituents	.....	.....	.....	Trace
Free Chlorine	.....	.....	.....	0.002
Hydrogen Ion concentration equivalent to pH	.....			6.5

Bacteriological Examination of Treated Water

Nature of Sample—Moorland Catchment Area.

Main Piped Supply—15in. Trunk main—tap—Inlet to St. Mary's Reservoir—Filtered—Chlorinated—hydrate of lime.

Report.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, McConkey

2 days 37° C. 0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli 0 per 100 ml.

Remarks.

This sample falls into Class I of the Ministry of Health's classification for piped supplies.

- (iii) Where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and the number and results of analyses.

The pH value of the raw moorland water varies between 5.00 and 6.00 and throughout the year water is treated with hydrate of lime to neutralise the acidity. The existing plant has not been working entirely satisfactorily but the new lime solution generator now being installed will enable the pH value of the raw water to be increased to the alkalinity side of neutral.

(iv) Action taken in respect of any form of contamination.

No form of contamination has occurred throughout the year.

Regular inspections of the catchment areas, works and mains, etc., were made.

(v) Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains

(a) direct to the houses.

(b) by means of stand-pipes.

(a) Approximately 99.7% of the population are supplied with water from the Council's mains and a similar percentage of dwelling houses.

(b) There are no dwelling houses within the area which are supplied by means of stand-pipes.

2—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A complete new system at a cost of £440,000 was installed in 1930/35, and full details of the system were included in the Report for 1934. The outfall discharges into the English Channel off Berry Head, Brixham (outside Torbay).

The following additions to the sewerage system were made to meet the need of increasing development within the area.

Length of pipe	Diameter
50 yds.	15 in.
400 yds.	12 in.
285 yds.	9 in.
50 yds.	6 in.

3—RIVERS AND STREAMS

There is no pollution to report under this heading.

4—(i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

No conservancy system conversion was carried out during the year.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

9,410 tons of refuse were collected during the year, 45 tons 8 cwts. of which were salvaged.

Refuse is still disposed of by controlled tipping at the Clennon Valley tip.

Pig swill continued to be collected by private contract, the contractor providing street bins for this purpose. The Council received payment of £30 for this privilege.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

(a) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The supervision of the design and construction of drainage systems continued satisfactorily throughout the year, and the division of the work between new and existing buildings was as follows :

New buildings :

Sewer connections inspected	.....	.....	.....	75
Tests of drainage	.....	.....	.....	379

Existing buildings :

Sewer connections inspected	.....	.....	.....	13
Tests of drainage	.....	.....	.....	74

In addition, advice was given and the ensuing work supervised concerning numerous alterations and additions to soil and waste drainage fittings and lay-outs.

Work in this latter connection must assume an incidence peculiar to a growing seaside resort, due to the increasing number of premises providing hot and cold water in all bedrooms.

Choked Drains

Informal action was taken in 21 instances to secure clearance of drainage obstructions.

The Council does not undertake to clear drainage stoppages, and owners are advised to make private arrangements with local building contractors.

(b) DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

309 rooms, involving 124 premises, were treated for the following reasons :

Notifiable Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)	.....	30
Tuberculosis	.....	5
Verminous Conditions	.....	53
Other Causes	.....	36

The following articles were dealt with by steam disinfection at the Kings Ash Hospital Disinfector :

Mattresses	.....	36
Pillows	.....	62
Sheets	.....	21
Bolsters	.....	3
Blankets	.....	53
Other Articles	.....	70

Library books fumigated totalled 52.

Articles from the adjoining Brixham Urban District Council and Totnes Rural District Council areas continue to be treated under the existing agreement with these Councils. Items dealt with are included in the above figures.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS

The methods employed for the eradication of bed-bugs are :

- (a) Using " Cimex " Gas Blocks for large infestations. This necessitates sealing the premises for one day.
- (b) Using " Cimex " Powder with Blower Spray.
- (c) Spraying with " Zaldecide " Solution.
- (d) Application of " D.D.T." Spray and Powder.

			Infested	Disinfested
(i) Council houses	.....	.....	1	1
(ii) Other houses	.....	.....	—	—

WASP NESTS

33 requests for assistance in destroying wasp nests were received during the year.

Satisfactory results were obtained in the control of these pests by fumigation with hydrocyanic acid gas. The gas is produced by moistening a proprietary preparation evolving 20% by weight of HCN, and is used in quantities consistent with the size and location of the nest.

Nests located inside buildings are treated initially by spray insecticide to facilitate removal to a safe place where complete extermination by the HCN process is effected.

CARPET BEETLE INFESTATION

Though the beetle has again reappeared in four distinct areas within the district, there is no knowledge of excessive damage to household effects by its larval form, known as the " woolly bear."

RODENT CONTROL

In accordance with the instructions issued by the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10% of the sewers in the District are test baited annually. From evidence based on the results of this test two maintenance tests are carried out in the early spring and autumn.

The tests carried out this year again showed a large infestation in the sewers situated in the low-lying parts of the town. These sewers are brick and stone culverts all of which were constructed before 1900. Very few takes are recorded in the hilly parts of the town where the sewers are of a modern type.

Treatments to private houses continued free of charge, but charges to business premises were increased from 4/- to 5/- per hour after the end of June.

A meeting of No. 3 Workable Area Committee was held at Paignton in September, and was well attended. Three excellent films were shown and an interesting discussion followed.

The following table shows the incidence of infestation and action taken under the provisions of The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and is based upon the twelve monthly return submitted to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	Total
1—Total number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2)	58	8463	31	917	9469
2—Number of properties inspected by Local Authority during 1953 as a result—(a) of notification, or (b) survey or otherwise—(Notes 1, 2 and 3)	(a) 8 (b) 50	120 507	7 14	10 192	145 763
3—Number of properties (under Section 2) found to be infested by rats—(Notes 1, 2 and 3)	Major 1 Minor 21	3 551	2 13	— 30	6 615
4—Number of properties (under Section 2) inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice—(Notes 1, 2 and 3)	4	25	—	9	38
5—Number of infested properties (under Sections 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority—(Notes 1, 2 and 3)	26	579	15	39	659
6—Number of Notices served under Section 4 : (1) Treatment	—	—	—	1	1
(2) Structural Works (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
7—Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of Notice under Section 4	—	—	—	—	—
8—Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
9—Number of "block" control schemes carried out—113					

NOTES

- Note 1—(a) With the exception of agricultural properties, a property means one which is entered in the Valuation Roll for the area. (b) Only properties devoted to agricultural or horticultural production, in respect of which returns are made under the Agriculture Act, 1947, should be entered as agricultural properties.
- Note 2—(a) Council houses should be entered in Column (2). (b) Premises used by the Local Authority for the purposes of trade should be entered in Column (4). (c) Sewers should not be included. (d) Combined dwelling and business premises, where occupied by the same person, should be regarded as business premises and should be entered in Column (4). Where the dwelling and business parts of the premises are in separate occupation, separate entries should be made in Columns (2) and (4).
- Note 3—For the purpose of completing Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5, each property should be entered **once only** in respect of inspections, infestations and treatments.

(c) FACTORIES ACT, 1937

178 inspections were made in respect of 203 premises listed in the Factories Register. The following tabular return for the year was made to the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

1. Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	46	38	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	155	138	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	2	2	—	—
TOTAL ...		203	178	—	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspectors (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	1	2	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) —						
(a) insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	10	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	60	2	3	—	1	—

(d) SHOPS ACT, 1950

The provisions of Section 38 continued to be enforced by the Council under powers delegated to them by the County Council. There are 553 shop premises within the area, to which 284 visits were made for the purposes of the Act.

Informal action taken resulted in the cleansing of the sanitary conveniences at three premises, and in the provision of heating facilities to one shop.

(e) CAMPING SITES

There were thirty-four sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during the year, nine of which are licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area during July and August was 7,550, an increase of 12% on the figure for the corresponding period in the previous year.

(f) SMOKE ABATEMENT

There has been no smoke nuisance in the area during the period under review.

(g) SWIMMING POOLS

There are two swimming pools in use in the Urban area ; both are privately owned and are located at holiday camps.

Filtration and chlorination plants are installed at both pools and all ten water samples taken during the year proved satisfactory.

(h) SCHOOLS

The sanitary conditions and water supplies of schools within the area remain unchanged.

OLD METAL OR MARINE STORE DEALERS

Of the five persons registered as Dealers in Old Metal under Section 86 of The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, two persons discontinued business during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Licence renewals were granted to the original applicants in respect of three premises required to be licensed under the Act.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951

5 premises are registered under the Act. No premises are licensed for the manufacture or storage of Rag Flock.

HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

Regulations made under section 5 of the Act came into operation on October 1st, 1953.

Gas fires, electric fires, oil heaters suitable for use in residential premises and of a type that without a guard there is a likelihood of injury by burning, are required to be fitted with fireguards of a specified standard and fitting.

Heating appliances manufactured before the 1st October, 1953, and not fitted with the requisite guard may be sold or let until 30th September, 1954.

Testing equipment to ascertain whether guards comply with the prescribed standards has been acquired, and the provisions of the Regulations conveyed to the tradespeople concerned.

SECTION D

HOUSING

1—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health Act or Housing Acts)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	73
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....					131
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.....	.....	.....	.....		—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	60

2—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers		57
--	---	-------	-------	-------	--	----

3—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :						
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	.....					—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :						
(a)	By Owners	.....	.....	.....	.....		—
(b)	Local Authorities in default of Owners	.....					—
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :						
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :						
(a)	By Owners	.....	.....	.....	.....		1
(b)	By Local Authorities in default of Owners						—

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :						
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	.....	.....			—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	.....	.....			—
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :						
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	.....	.....	.....	.....	—

4—Housing Act, 1936 : Part IV : Overcrowding :

(a)	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	.....	.....			18
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	.....	.....			72
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	.....	.....	.....	.....	38
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	.....				78
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	.....	.....	.....		Nil

HOUSING ACTS 1949/52

No application for financial assistance towards improvement of housing accommodation was received during the year.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A. MILK SUPPLY

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1953, which came into operation on the 2nd December, 1953, included the Urban District of Paignton in Area No. 4, making compulsory the use of Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised milk for retail sale within the district.

2 retailers were affected by the provisions of the Order, and now retail milk of special designation. 1 retailer continues to use the special designation "Accredited" in respect of milk retailed by him; the use of this designation will not be permitted after 30th September, 1954.

(i) Dairies and Distributors

There are 4 dairies registered, and 27 persons are registered as distributors of milk.

Dealer's licences issued during 1953 authorising the use of special designation in respect of milk retailed were as follows :

Special Designation " Pasteurised "	.....	.....	.....	27
Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested "	.....	.....	.....	13
Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) "	.....	.....	.....	24
Special Designation " Accredited "	.....	.....	.....	1

One retailer was issued a Dealer's Supplementary licence authorising the use of the Special Designations " Pasteurised " and " Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)."

(ii) Sampling

Samples taken from local retailers and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Exeter, for bacteriological examination gave the following results :

				Passed	Failed
Milk produced locally	.....	.....	.....	3	1
Milk not produced locally	.....	.....	.....	2	1
Designated milk produced locally	.....	.....	.....	2	—

B. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(i) Meat Inspection

Paignton is the distributing centre for an area comprising the Paignton U.D.C., Brixham U.D.C., Totnes Borough, and part of Totnes R.D.C. All meat for these areas is distributed by the Wholesale Meat Suppliers' Association, whose Depot is in Dartmouth Road.

Animals are slaughtered in the two slaughter-houses in the District. The smaller of the two is owned by the Council, and the other, situated at Crown and Anchor Way, is privately owned and leased to the Ministry of Food. The latter is sited, unfortunately, in close proximity to dwellings, but must continue to function as a slaughterhouse to meet the present needs of the area.

Improvements to the hanging facilities were carried out at the Council's Abattoir during the summer by replacement of the pulley blocks and tackles with twin bar metal runways.

The Sanitary Inspectors are responsible for the ante- and post-mortem inspection of all animals consigned to these slaughterhouses.

No generalised cases of cysticercus bovis infection were encountered, but localised infection was discovered in 1.67% of all cattle slaughtered, an increase of 0.63% on last year's incidence. These carcasses continue to be removed to Exeter for the required cold storage detention period.

It is of interest to record that the cysts continue to express predilection for the masticatory musculature of the head, the affected beast being invariably well nourished.

Congenital tuberculosis was present in 0.42% of all calves slaughtered, a welcome improvement upon the 1.56% returned for 1952. The Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is notified of each occurrence for the purpose of dam tracing to the farm concerned.

The numbers of animals killed and inspected during 1953 are shown below, together with the numbers affected with tuberculosis and other conditions warranting condemnation.

		Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Abattoir	...	289	144	85	1971	398	—
C. and A. Slaughter House		1272	524	391	5768	1	—
Totals	...	1561	668	476	7739	399	—

	Cattle excl'dg. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	1561	668	476	7739	399
Number inspected	1561	668	476	7739	399
All Diseases (except Tuberculosis) :					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	3	6	27	-
Carcasses of which same part or organ was condemned	847	380	7	953	11
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease (other than Tuberculosis)	54.32	57.33	2.73	10.21	2.70
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	5	2	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	89	119	-	-	31
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis	5.76	18.59	0.42	-	7.77

The total weight of meat condemned at the slaughterhouses was 38,388 lbs. (17 tons, 2 cwts., 3 qrs.).

(ii) Inspection of other Foods

Unsound Food

Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption are listed below :

Ham	6 tins	Red Plums	118 tins
Ham Gammon	9 tins	Purple Plums	6 tins
Pork Butts	4 tins	Victoria Plums	136 tins
Pork	10 tins	Prunes in Syrup	163 tins
Jellied Pork	5 tins	Raspberries	10 tins
Pork and Gravy	7 tins	Strawberries	6 tins
Chopped Pork	2 tins	Apricot Conserve	3 tins
Pork Brawn	2 tins	Orange Curd	1 jar
Frozen Pork Chops in		Peach Jam	1 tin
Gravy	48 pkts.	Raspberry Jam	2 tins
Pork Luncheon Meat	40 tins	Preserves	8 jars
Luncheon Meat	58 tins	Fruit Mincemeat	5 tins
Corned Beef	14 tins	Golden Syrup	5 tins
Corned Beef with Cereal	1 tin	Custard Powder	2 tins

Minced Beef Loaf	25 tins	Condensed Milk	42 tins
Brisket of Beef	37 tins	Evaporated Milk	61 tins
Beef Luncheon Meat	2 tins	Marmalade	1 tin
Jellied Veal	16 tins	Marmalade	2 jars
Ox Tongues	13 tins	Grapefruit Marmalade	1 tin
Lunch Tongues in Jelly	1 tin	Saville Orange Marmalade	2 tins
Duck in Aspic	1 jar	Sterilised Cream	8 tins
Stewed Steak	48 tins	Corn Flakes	12 pkts.
Steak in Gravy	4 tins	Bermaline Meal (Flour)	280 lb.
Steak and Vegetables	6 tins	Robinson's Patent Barley	3 tins
Irish Stew	2 tins	Meat Soup	2 tins
Steak and Kidney	1 tin	Cream of Tomato Soup	6 tins
Braised Kidneys	19 tins	Cream of Chicken Soup	3 tins
Herrings in Tomato Sauce	2 tins	Vegetable Soup	2 tins
Sardines	5 tins	Scotch Broth	3 tins
Sild	20 tins	Tomato Concentrate	1 tin
Rock Lobster	2 tins	Tomato Cocktail	2 tins
Peeled Shrimps	1 tin	Grapefruit Juice	2 tins
Beans	3 tins	Blended Orange and	
Baked Beans in Tomato		Grapefruit Juice	1 tin
Sauce	66 tins	Spaghetti in Tomato	
Butter Beans	1 tin	Sauce	8 tins
Whole Carrots	15 tins	Pan Yan Pickle	4 jars
Garden Peas	21 tins	Pickled Onions	1 jar
Processed Peas	58 tins	Patum Peperium	17 jars
Macedoine	2 tins	Crab Paste	1 tin
Mixed Vegetables	1 tin	Mustard	2 tins
Tomatoes	98 tins	Frozen Whole Eggs	1 tin
Apples	29 tins	Sweet Pudding	2 tins
Apricots	11 tins	Sultana and Cherry Cake	1
Apricots	4 jars	Fairy Cakes	25 lb.
Apricot Pulp	11 tins	Coconut Ice	70 boxes
Blackcurrants	1 tin	Marshmallows	56 lb.
Blackcurrants	1 jar	Coconut Dainties	12 lb.
Cherries	80 tins	Neapolitan Creams	40 lb.
Black Cherries	10 tins	Fig Bar Biscuits	56 lb.
Red Cherries	13 tins	Softa Freeze Mix	6 gall.
Damsons	1 tin	Lard	3 lb.
Fruit Salad	2 tins	Chocolate Swiss Rolls	60
Fruit Salad	12 jars	Cheddar Cheese	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Gooseberries	2 tins	Gruyere Cheese	50 boxes
Grapes	5 tins	Processed Cheese	64 pkts.
White Grapes	33 tins	Pork Sausages	3 tins
Grapefruit Segments	11 tins	Frankfurter Sausages	1 tin
Grapefruit in Syrup	1 jar	Vienna Sausages	1 tin
Lawtonberries	1 tin	Sausages	40 lb.
Peaches	4 tins	Bream Fillets	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ stone
Peaches	1 jar	Cod Fillets	16 stone
Peach Pulp	8 tins	Dabs	6 stone
Pears	8 tins	Smoked Haddocks	6 stone
Bartlett Pears	12 tins	Golden Cutlets	
Pear Pulp	2 tins	(Haddock)	3 stone
Oranges	27 tins	Lemon Soles	2 stone
Pineapple Chunks	6 tins	Whiting	6 stone
Crushed Pineapple	5 tins	Roes	3 stone
Golden Plums	78 tins		

Bone-tainted beef surrendered by retailers amounted to 901 lbs. (home-killed) and 249 lbs. (imported). 209 lbs. of meat were condemned by reason of bruising and other causes.

Ice-cream

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Amendment Regulations, 1952.

These Regulations allow a high temperature short time heat treatment as contrasted with a longer time at a lower temperature ; but special apparatus has to be installed to ensure adequate thermostatic control, the maintenance of an even rate of flow during the heat treatment, and an automatic device to divert any mixture which has not been raised to the prescribed temperature.

There is no installation of this type in the District.

Regular visits were made to ice cream manufacturing premises and to shops selling this commodity. Ice cream is an article of food in which bacteria will multiply rapidly unless scrupulous cleanliness is observed in all stages of its manufacture and sale. Hence it is necessary to take frequent samples and maintain close supervision of all its processes.

Samples are taken of both loose and pre-packed ice cream, and are forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter, where after testing, they are placed in one of four Grades, i.e., Grade 1, Satisfactory ; Grade 2, Fair ; Grade 3, Unsatisfactory ; Grade 4, Very Bad. It is generally accepted that a sample should fall into either Grade 1 or Grade 2, but in a report from the Director of the Public Health Laboratories it was stated that owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice cream it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results of any single sample. Judgment should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period 50 per cent. of the vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80 per cent. into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent. into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

In the event of the ice cream falling into either Grades 3 or 4, further samples are taken to endeavour to find the cause of contamination.

The following table gives a comparison of the results of samples taken during the past four years :

	1950	1951	1952	1953
Total number of samples taken	103	104	97	85
Grade 1	48.4%	48.1%	55.6%	55.3%
Grade 2	22.2%	8.6%	29.2%	20.0%
Grade 3	13.7%	20.2%	4.1%	21.2%
Grade 4	15.7%	23.1%	11.1%	3.5%

Shellfish

The Fishmongers' Company Standards are used for interpreting the degree of cleanliness of shellfish. 3 Grades are used, Satisfactory, Suspicious and Unsatisfactory, and samples taken during the year were classified as follows :

			Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
Cockles	.....	.....	2	—	—
Crabmeat	.....	.....	4	—	1

After investigation following the unsatisfactory sample a further sample taken was found to be satisfactory.

C. CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS

(i) The number of food premises in the area, by type of business :

There are 313 food premises in the area, comprising :

Grocers and Greengrocers	.....	.....	.....	.....	91
Restaurants, Cafés and Snack Bars	.....	.....	.....	.....	46
Fishmongers :					
Wet	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Fried	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Wet and Fried	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Greengrocer/Fishmongers	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Butchers/Fishmongers	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Butchers	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Baker/Pastrycook Retail Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Bakehouses and Patisseries	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Mineral Water and Beer Bottling Establishments	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Winery	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Licensed Premises :					
Public	.....	.....	.....	.....	23
Private	.....	.....	.....	.....	24
Ice Cream :					
Manufacturers	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Vendors	.....	.....	.....	.....	75
Confectioners	.....	.....	.....	.....	35
Cooked Meats Vendor	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Fruit and Vegetable Warehouses	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Kiosks and seasonal structures (excl. ice cream vendors) :					
Teas, Snacks	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Shellfish	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Candyfloss, Toffee Apples	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

(ii) The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 :

There are 75 vendors and 7 manufacturers registered for the sale or manufacture of ice-cream. The types of premises retailing this commodity are as follows :

Grocers	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Grocers/Greengrocers	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Greengrocers/Fruiterers	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Garage	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Tobacconist/Confectioners	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
Confectioner/Greengrocer/Fruiterer	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
General Stores	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Fishmongers	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Kiosks	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Multiple Stores	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Holiday Camp Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	4

In addition to the above, ice-cream is retailed at 30 restaurants, snackbars, etc., 3 cinemas, 2 theatres and a summer pavilion.

Of the 7 ice-cream manufacturers, 4 manufacture by hot mix, and 3 by cold mix.

43 premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. These comprise :

Bakehouses	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Butchers	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Fish Fryers	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Grocers	.....	.....	.....	.....	3

4 dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

(iii) The number of inspections of registered food premises.

Of the 822 inspections of all types of food establishments listed below, 245 inspections were made in respect of registered premises :

Restaurants, Cafés and Snack Bars	.....	.....	.....	140
Bakehouses	.....	.....	.....	27
Bakers, Confectioners Shops	.....	.....	.....	29
Hotel and Guest House Kitchens	.....	.....	.....	167
Butchers	.....	.....	.....	70
Grocers/Greengrocers	.....	.....	.....	114
Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers	.....	.....	.....	98
Dairies	.....	.....	.....	24
Wet and Fried Fish Shops	.....	.....	.....	57
Shell Fish Dealers	.....	.....	.....	22
Cooked Meat Vendors	.....	.....	.....	10
Licensed Premises	.....	.....	.....	24
Mineral Water and Beer Bottling Establishments	.....	.....	.....	4
Mobile Canteens	.....	.....	.....	6
Mobile Fish Fryer	.....	.....	.....	2
Food Delivery Vans and Itinerant Vendors	.....	.....	.....	28

- (iv) Any new educational activity (e.g. inauguration of clean food guilds or of lectures on food hygiene) and the progress of established educational activity.

Catering establishment staffs and employers were circularised during the year regarding the observance of cleanliness in handling foodstuffs.

In a seaside town employees in the food trade are, to a large extent, seasonal, and experience has shown that greater interest is aroused concerning hygiene and clean food handling by giving advice on the spot, rather than arranging lectures. During the summer months business demands make attendance at such lectures virtually impracticable and, out-of-season, interest is lost with the drift to other employment.

- (v) The method of disposal of condemned food.

Condemned meat from the slaughterhouses is dyed green prior to removal by the Ministry of Food Contractor. All other foodstuffs condemned are disposed of under supervision at the Council's refuse tip.

- (vi) Where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity as well as the quantity condemned.

No special examination of a stock or consignment of food was necessary during the year.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

The following annual return, in accordance with Circular 46/49, Memo 188/Med., has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Total number of outbreaks	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each	Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each
—	—	—	—	—

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles was epidemic in the early months of the year, but complicated cases were not numerous and there was no death.

Each of the cases of paratyphoid fever was a sporadic case without any connexion ; one was a visitor on holiday who had been infected at home and the other was a resident. The cause of infection could not be ascertained.

Three cases of poliomyelitis occurred : two were severe cases and proved fatal, while the third was non-paralytic and had been infected in another area before arrival.

DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	3	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	1	—
Measles	248	2	—
Whooping Cough	66	2	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :			
Paralytic	2	2	2
Non-Paralytic	1	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—

Analysis in age groups of total notified cases.

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic		Non- Paralytic		Measles	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	1
1-2 years	—	—	3	5	—	—	—	—	8	15
3-4 years	—	—	10	8	—	—	—	—	30	27
5-9 years	3	—	12	19	1	1	—	—	72	77
10-14 years	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	13	—
15-24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
25 and over	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
Total	4	—	28	38	1	1	1	—	126	122

				Acute Pneumonia		Paratyphoid Fevers	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	.....	.....	.....	—	—	1	1
15—44 years	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—	—
45—64 years	.....	.....	.....	1	1	—	—
65 and over	.....	.....	.....	2	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	3	1	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1953

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	.....			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 years	.....			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	.....			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 years	.....			1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
25—34 years	.....			—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—44 years	.....			1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 years	.....			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 years	.....			1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and over	.....			1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	.....			4	3	1	1	2	1	—	—

PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1953

These came into force on the 1st April, and in addition to requiring the notification of certain diseases, amplified the precautionary measures provided for in the revoked regulations of 1927 against food poisoning by relating these, instead of to typhoid fever and dysentery as formerly, to typhoid fever, para-typhoid fever or other salmonella infections, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning.

In addition, these measures apply both to persons suffering from, and to persons shown to be carriers of, the diseases : and such persons (cases or carriers) can be prevented not only from continuing employment which involves the handling of food as formerly, but also from entering such employment.

As required by Section 4, a copy of the Regulations was sent to every medical practitioner in the District.

SCABIES AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS

No cases were treated during the year.

SECTION G

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 AND 1936

A new form of licence was adopted by the Council which included the conditions recommended in Part I of the Home Office Memorandum. The new conditions of licence were operative from 1st January, 1953.

Fifty-seven licences to store 73,116 gallons of petroleum were issued.

Premises are visited periodically during the year, and all premises are visited at least once per year with the Fire Officer who examines the fire-fighting appliances and gives valuable advice on the subject of fire prevention. Licensees are requested to provide a two gallon foam extinguisher in the vicinity of the storage tanks.

Twenty-three informal requests were made to provide or re-fill fire extinguishers, repair vents or exhibit abstracts. Sixteen requests were complied with, and in no case was it necessary to take formal action in order to get the work done. Sufficient time had not elapsed before the end of the year for the outstanding requests to be carried out.

EXPLOSIVES ACTS, 1875 AND 1923

Thirty-five licences were issued for the storage of gunpowder and mixed explosives.

Classification of Stores :

Explosives in magazine—Mode “ A ”—Two.

Explosives in magazine—Mode “ B ”—One.

Shops for the sale of Class 6 Division 3 explosives—cartridges—Five.

Shops for the sale of Class 7 Division 2 explosives—fireworks—Twenty-seven.

SECTION H

HOUSING OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1953

Thirty-two houses and seventy-two flats were constructed during the year, all of which were situated on the Foxhole Estate. In addition to these, twenty-one houses and flats became vacant, and this enabled a total of 125 families to be rehoused from the Housing List. Ten transfers were also arranged.

Tenants are selected by the Housing (Allocation) Committee which held five meetings during the year.

Units constructed consisted of three types (a) 4 room Flats with rentals varying up to 21/- inclusive of rates (b) 5 room Flats inclusive rental of 26/6 (c) 5 room Houses inclusive rental of 28/7.

Vacancies in the pre-war houses (rental up to £1 1s.) were again very few, and it was only possible to offer accommodation to three families who were not able to afford the top rents.

A review of the incomes reveals that approximately half the number of applicants receive £6 to £7 10s. per week.

The following premises were allocated during 1953 :

New Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32
New Flats	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	72
Existing Houses (including 3 transfers)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Existing Flats (including 7 transfers)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
						<hr/> 135 <hr/>

Allocations were made for the following reasons :

					Families	Persons
Overcrowded conditions	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	78
Unsuitable conditions	.....	.....	.....	.....	53	170
Health	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	23
Key workers	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	7
High rent	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3
Court Orders to quit	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	19
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	46
Transfers from requisitioned properties	.....	.....	.....	.....	23	99
						<hr/> 125 <hr/>
Transfers	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	36
						<hr/> 135 <hr/>
Transfers of tenancy	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	8
Sub-tenancies granted	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	4
Exchange of premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	5
Exchange with tenant from another L.A.	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1

Types of Families Allocated to Houses and Flats during 1953.

				Families	Persons
Two person families	.....	.....	.....	20	40
Three person families	.....	.....	.....	58	174
Four person families	.....	.....	.....	36	144
Five person families	.....	.....	.....	10	50
Six person families	.....	.....	.....	8	48
Seven person family	.....	.....	.....	1	7
Eight person family	.....	.....	.....	1	8
Ten person family	.....	.....	.....	1	10
				<hr/> 135	<hr/> 481

Number of New Houses and Flats Occupied on the Foxhole Estate during 1953.

				Houses	Persons
Two person families	.....	.....	.....	1	2
Three person families	.....	.....	.....	3	9
Four person families	.....	.....	.....	15	60
Five person families	.....	.....	.....	7	35
Six person families	.....	.....	.....	4	24
Seven person family	.....	.....	.....	1	7
Eight person family	.....	.....	.....	1	8
				<hr/> 32	<hr/> 145

				Flats	Persons
Two person families	.....	.....	.....	11	22
Three person families	.....	.....	.....	48	144
Four person families	.....	.....	.....	13	52
				<hr/> 72	<hr/> 218

Council Housing Estates.

Number of pre war houses on Council Estates	.....	390
Number of post war houses on Foxhole Estate	..... 198	}
Number of post war flats on Foxhole Estate	..... 188	
Number of post war houses on other Estates	.....	120
Total number of Council properties	..... 896	

The growth of a new estate is shown by the following figures giving the progressive increase in population at Foxhole since the allocation of the first tenancy in August, 1949.

Estimated population at the end of 1949	.....	.....	135
" " " " " " 1950	.....	.....	381
" " " " " " 1951	.....	.....	756
" " " " " " 1952	.....	.....	936
" " " " " " 1953	.....	.....	1300
Average number of persons per unit for 1953	.....		3.5

Requisitioned Properties.

Twenty-three families were rehoused from twenty properties and these premises were de-requisitioned before 12th December. Two houses remained under Council control as negotiations were not quite completed by the end of the year.

Housing List.

The Housing List was revised during November, and at the 31st December, 1953, comprised the following applications :

One person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Two person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	110
Three person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	116
Four person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	48
Five person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Six person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Seven person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Pensioners	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43
						<hr/> 338
Short List	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46
Family in Requisitioned Property				.....	.....	1
Outside List	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62
Under 5 years residence in Paignton				.....	.....	21
						<hr/> 468

Four hundred and one visits were made to verify housing information for local applicants, and five visits were made on behalf of other Authorities.

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